

Letter from Rhode Island.

Dear DEMOCRAT:

Again the hands have moved around the dial plate of time and we are a year older. I guess there is no way of stopping this getting older every year so we will just have to let her go. The Kansas man living in little Rhode sends greetings and wishes to be kindly remembered to the good people of Great Bend and Barton county. I wish you all a happy and prosperous new year and all the good luck that can befall you. May the crops be beautiful and the town enjoy a growth unknown in years. I also trust that another year will find each one a few dollars richer and no debts to bother.

I have watched the DEMOCRAT carefully to see what the Commercial Club is doing but have failed to find mention of it. Can it be that there is nothing more to do? Where are the "rustlers"? I did see that the town was dark now. It seems to me as if this was a step backwards. I have seen a good cheap gasoline light used a great deal in the east and should think that this might answer your purpose if electric lights were out of the question.

It would have given me great pleasure to have attended the New Year's reception and ball for I know from experience just what a good time a fellow can have. I have been told that the gentlemen who had the thing in charge covered themselves with glory, but I needn't have been told this for it is one of the things to be taken for granted with Kansas men.

In closing I want to send you a copy of a letter written by a debtor to a collector in this city. By a Rhode Island law if one man owes another and is sent out judgment unclosed against him, the man he is indebted to can have him put in jail provided he pays the state his board, the other man being allowed so much a day on his bill, so when discharged he has a receipt in full. Howard is the name of the place where the jail is located.

Howard, Dec., 10, 1898.
You will see from the above that I am here, and I am here because another man who is a bigger fool than I am is paying my board. He thought he could get money out of me quicker than I could pay him so here I am. I owed him a small bill and when I get out of here will have a receipt in full; an easy way of paying my debts. If you want that bill you have against me paid in the same way it suits me all right. If not when I get out of here will see what I can do. I can't do anything now as you can see for I am here.

So you see people owe money once in a while down in this country.

With kindest regards and best wishes to all, I remain

Very Truly Yours,
GEO. M. MOSS.

The Value of Honey Bees.

One might suppose that the honey crop of this country is the only value attached to honey bees. This is no the case by any means, and I will venture to say here that their greatest value lies altogether in another direction. Honey bees, as pollen distributors, are of more value to the people of this country than the crop of honey they store. It is only of late years that the enormous extent of this has been discovered. So much were people in the dark in this matter, that the beekeeper and the fruit grower were almost at war with each other. That bees had considerable to do with fruit

all knew, but the fruit grower easily jumped at the conclusion that the bees did the fruit great damage.

This perhaps was the principal means of starting investigation and experiments on this point. Experiments have shown that honey bees are the best pollen distributors, and that we are largely indebted to them, not only for the quantity of our fruits, but for quality as well. Other insects are of course pollen distributors, but only on a small scale compared to honey bees. Not only in the line of fruits do we receive benefits thus, but in almost all of the most commonly grown cereals on the farm. The honey bee is the most general distributor, and not so much of a specialist as other insects which confine themselves to certain flowers only. The honey bee gathers pollen wherever pollen is found, and her scope of territory is by no means small. Bees work a field of five or six miles in diameter, and frequently, to some extent, eight or ten.

Every up-to-date fruit grower at the present time is fully aware that the honey bee is his best friend, and so governs himself accordingly by fostering them as near his fruit farm as possible. Not only is this the case with fruits, but it is the same with vegetables. A strawberry patch without honey bees is almost a blank; and not only domesticated fruits, but all wild fruits, are thus brought up to the highest state of perfection possible by this same process. Every fruit and vegetable-growing district, and not this alone, but every neighborhood where man exists, should be supplied with honey bees, not only to gather honey, but to pollinize the blossoms.

A. H. DUFF,
Larned, Kansas.

Grip is Very Old

So prevalent has the grip been for the past month or so that perhaps few persons in town are now prepared to put forth the oft-exploded claim that it is "merely a new name for an unusually severe cold." As a matter of fact, the disease has been known and described from the time of Hippocrates, who was born in the year 460 B. C. and though its name has been changed at various periods, it has always been a form of epidemic catarrh, more or less severe according to circumstances. In 1510 it was called "coccinella," because the sick wore a cap close over their heads. Afterward the Italian physician named it "influenza," and in later years the French doctors gave it the name of "la grippe," which is now Anglicized into "the grip"—though it seems best to retain the French spelling for the word when meaning this disease, so as to distinguish it from other grips. It is known all over the world, and there is a disposition in every nation to shift the odium of it upon some other country. Then the Russians call it the Chinese catarrh, the Germans often call it the Russian pest, the Italians name it the German disease, and the French call it sometimes the Spanish catarrh.

On a Larger Scale.

"I have heard some very romantic stories about your successes," said the young woman, as she looked out of the corners of her eyes and adjusted her mouth so as to make dimples.

"Yes!" responded Senator Sorghum, with a complacent smile.

"It has been intimated to me that you have made money out of politics."



One Block West
of Postoffice.

A. H. Schaeffer
Great Bend, Kas.

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"Well, some of these people did so badly when they tried to make politics out of money. I dunno's a man would be to blame for turnin' the experiment the other way around."

"And then another person told me that you got your very first start in life as a curbstome fakir."

"That's libellous."

"I thought so."

"Absolutely false. The way I got my first start was this: I had a farm left me which wasn't good for anything else, so I got it surveyed and had maps printed and opened up an office, and sold the whole thing off in lots. I'm not a man of small enterprises. When I start out to do anything, I do it with a will. As soon as I made up my mind to fake I faked a whole town. I would not stop with a curbstome."

Registration Notes.

The registration books of the City of Great Bend, Kansas, for the year 1899, are now open and, all citizens of said city can register at the office of the city clerk of said city in the Tribune building, as prescribed by law. No elector will be qualified to vote unless he has been duly registered, and the registration books will be closed ten days before any election to be held in said city.

F. E. BROWN, City Clerk.

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